

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration, reexamination, and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication, at pages 1 and 7 of the Office Action, that the subject matters of Claims 10 and 13 are free of the prior art. By way of the foregoing amendments, Claims 10 and 13 have been placed in independent form, including the subject matters of the independent claim(s) from which they each depend and those of any intervening claims.

Also included in the Office Action at page 7 was a Statement of Reasons for the Indication of Allowable Subject Matter. Applicant has the following comments.

While the claimed combinations are patentable over the prior art for the reasons presented therein, the claimed combinations are patentable for many more reasons. More specifically, the patentability of the claimed combinations is not limited to the particular subset of features identified in the Statement, but rather it is the entire combinations of elements and/or steps in the claims, each taken as a whole, that are patentable over the prior art, both taken alone and in hypothetical combination.

Objection to the Abstract

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Abstract was objected to because it allegedly did not conform to current U.S. practice. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this objection, in view of the foregoing amendments to the Abstract by which the term “comprising” has been removed.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the Abstract is not objectionable, and therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection thereto.

Objection to the Claims

At page 2 of the Office Action, Claim 10 was objected to because it included a typographical error which, by the foregoing amendments, has been corrected. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

In the Office Action, beginning at page 3, Claims 1-9, 11, 12, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as reciting subject matters that allegedly are anticipated by, or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as reciting subject matters that allegedly are obvious, and therefore allegedly unpatentable, over the prior art. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection.

While Applicant strongly disagrees with the negative patentability opinions expressed in the Office Action, Applicant has placed Claims 10 and 13 in independent form; all the remaining claims depend from Claim 1 (formerly Claim 13). Accordingly, all of the rejections under section 102 or 103 are now moot. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file one or more continuation applications to further pursue the subject matters disclosed in this application.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the present patent application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of the allowability of this patent application is therefore respectfully solicited.

If the patent examiner believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite passage of this patent application to issue, they are invited to call on the number below.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. If, however, additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees necessitated by this paper, and to credit all refunds and overpayments, to our Deposit Account 50-2821.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Adam J. Cermak/
Adam J. Cermak
Registration No. 40,391

U.S. P.T.O. Customer Number 36844

Cermak & Kenealy LLP
515 E. Braddock Rd., Suite B
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

703.778.6609 (v)
703.652.5101 (f)

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